

August 21, 2007

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Humboldt County DPW – Russ Creek Bridge Abutment Protection Project
WDID No. 1B07091WNHU

Humboldt County

On June 18, 2007, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Humboldt County Department of Public Works (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification for activities related to repairing bridge abutment footings on the Russ Lane Bridge over Russ Creek near Ferndale. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Russ Creek in the Ferndale Hydrologic Subarea No. 111.11.

The Russ Creek Bridge has been listed as “critical scour” by the California Department of Transportation and requires immediate repair. The proposed project involves using concrete to fill the scoured and undermined areas along both bridge abutment footings. The proposed project requires removal of up to two cubic yards of sediment from under and along each abutment. Hand tools will be used to excavate a trench (approximately 1’ wide by 1’ deep by 20’ long) along the base of each abutment. Excavated material will be removed from the stream and transported to an upland disposal site. Wooden boards will be secured approximately six inches out from the face of the existing abutment footings and along the outer edge of the excavated trench to form the concrete footing repairs. Concrete will be pumped into the forms from the road to fill all the void space under the existing footings and the newly formed footing extension. Approximately two cubic yards of concrete will be used to repair each abutment footing.

The proposed project is scheduled to be completed during the summer (July 1 to October 15) when the stream flows are low. If water is present under the bridge the water will be diverted around the work area by installing a sandbag diversion dam. A screened 18-inch diameter pipe will be used to carry the water through the work area.

The proposed project will result in 40 square feet (0.001 acre) and 40 linear feet of permanent impacts to an area of the streambank that is already covered by concrete bridge abutments. Compensatory mitigation is not required for the proposed project. Noncompensatory mitigation for this project includes the use of Best Management Practices for sediment and turbidity control and the use of concrete in a waterway. Construction activities are expected to take three days to complete.

The applicant has applied for authorization from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to perform the project under Nationwide Permit Number 3, pursuant to Clean Water Act, section 404. The Humboldt County Department of Public Works has determined that this project is statutorily exempt from California Environmental Quality

Act (CEQA) review (section 15301 – existing facilities and section 15304 – minor alterations to land). Based on a review of the project information submitted to date, Regional Water Board staff have determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Class 1, Section 15301 – existing facilities) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.